

News Release



USDA Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
Gunnison Ranger District
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Gunnison, CO 81230-2197

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLAT TOP MOUNTAIN RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

Gunnison, CO., (March 27, 2015) – The Gunnison Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests is proposing to conduct riparian restoration work in the Flat Top Mountain area, approximately 8 miles north/northwest of Gunnison on both National Forest and private lands. The project is designed to benefit Gunnison sage grouse.

Specifically, we propose to maintain the existing structures and build new small rock structures to address cut banks and erosion occurring within Gunnison Sage-Grouse brood-rearing habitat. This project will improve 1.5 miles of intermittent streams. Maintenance of restoration structures may be required in subsequent years. Work is planned to begin July 27, and be completed by the end of September.

The project is being done in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Conservation District, Gunnison Basin Climate Change Working Group, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting LLC, Bio-Logic Inc., and private landowners. The goal is to maintain and improve wet meadows and riparian areas within the sagebrush ecosystem for the benefit of Gunnison Sage-Grouse and other wildlife.

This project is categorically excluded under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6). No significant effects or extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action are expected. Questions should be addressed to Matt Vasquez at 970-642-4401 or mgvasquez@fs.fed.us by May 2, 2015. For more information, see the Forest Service's Projects webpage:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/gmug/landmanagement/projects>.

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